

WE CLAIM:


1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components, comprising:
  - a test case scenario object that comprises a test method that is arranged to test an electronic system;
  - a test harness that is arranged to invoke the test method by issuing a request to invoke the test method; and
  - a test method executor that is arranged to receive the request and invoke the requested test method by evaluating attributes that are associated with the requested test method before execution of the requested test method, to execute the requested test method, to evaluate attributes of the executed test method, and to return a result to the test harness that signals the result of the evaluation of the executed test method attributes.
2. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the test method executor comprises a state engine that is arranged to process data that is presented by the attributes that are associated with the requested test method.
3. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the result signals whether the execution of the requested test method is one of a success, failure, and skipped status.
4. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the test method executor is further arranged to gather data about the requested test method for the test harness.
5. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the test case scenario object is arranged to request a test service by querying a test services provider object.

6. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the attributes that are associated with the requested test method are presented to the test method executor as an ordered list.


7. The computer-readable medium of Claim 6, wherein the test method executor evaluates the attributes that are associated with the requested test method according to the order of the ordered list.

8. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the test method executor is further configured to generate a parameter list in response to the before execution evaluation of the attributes that are associated with the requested test method.

9. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the test method executor is further arranged to return a result to the test harness that signals a status that results when an exception is thrown.

10. A method for automated testing, comprising:   
receiving an invocation request to invoke a test method for testing an electronic system;  
evaluating attributes that are associated with the requested test method such that the attributes are evaluated before execution of the requested test method and that the attributes are evaluated in response to the invocation request;  
executing the requested test method in response to the evaluating of the attributes;  
evaluating attributes that are associated with the executed test method;  
and  
determining a result value that signals the result of the evaluation of the executed test method attributes.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the invocation request is received from a test harness.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the result value is returned to the test harness.
13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising gathering data about the requested test method for the test harness.
14. The method of Claim 11, further comprising requesting a test service from the test harness.
15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the test service is requested by a test case scenario object that is associated with the test method.
16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising determining the order in which the test method is executed.
17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the order is determined by the test case scenario object.
18. The method of Claim 11, further comprising returning a result to the test harness that signals a status that results when an exception is thrown.
19. The method of Claim 10, wherein the result value signals whether the execution of the requested test method is one of a success, failure, and skipped status.
20. A test automation system, comprising:   
a test case scenario object that comprises a test method that is arranged to test an electronic system;  
a test harness that is arranged to invoke the test method by issuing a request to invoke the test method; and  
a test method executor that is arranged to receive the request and invoke the requested test method by evaluating attributes that are associated with the requested test method before execution of the requested test method, to execute the requested test

method, to evaluate attributes of the executed test method, and to return a result to the test harness that signals the result of the evaluation of the executed test method attributes.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the test method executor comprises a state engine that is arranged to process data that is presented by the attributes that are associated with the requested test method.

22. The system of Claim 20, wherein the result signals whether the execution of the requested test method is one of a success, failure, and skipped status.

23. The system of Claim 20, wherein the test method executor is further arranged to gather data about the requested test method for the test harness.

24. The system of Claim 20, wherein the test case scenario object is arranged to request a test service by querying a test services provider object.

25. The system of Claim 20, wherein the attributes that are associated with the requested test method are presented to the test method executor as an ordered list.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the test method executor evaluates the attributes that are associated with the requested test method according to the order of the ordered list.

27. The system of Claim 20, wherein the test method executor is further configured to generate a parameter list in response to the before-execution evaluation of the attributes that are associated with the requested test method.

28. The system of Claim 20, wherein the test method executor is further arranged to return a result to the test harness that signals a status that results when an exception is thrown.

29. A test automation system, comprising:

- means for receiving an invocation request to invoke a test method for testing an electronic system;
- means for evaluating attributes that are associated with the requested test method such that the attributes are evaluated before execution of the requested test method and that the attributes are evaluated in response to the invocation request;
- means for executing the requested test method in response to the evaluating of the attributes;
- means for evaluating attributes that are associated with the executed test method; and
- means for determining a result value that signals the result of the evaluation of the executed test method attributes.